

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of the January 7, 2014 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Maddox the meeting of January 7, 2014 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Eagle Scout Dan Teague.
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: Rick Maddox, Nancy Brucker, Roger Coutu, Ben Nadeau, Ted Luszey  
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Fire Chief Rob Buxton; Pat Nichols
4. PUBLIC INPUT
  - A. Recognition of Eagle Scout Dan Teague

Chairman Maddox recognized Selectman Coutu to present recognition.

Before I roast him, Selectman Coutu wanted to extend an apology to Dan and to his Dad. Dan was away at college but he had his induction into the Eagle Scouts on a Saturday night. I showed up Sunday night. I had mismarked my calendar and I walked into St. Kathryn's downstairs, the lights were on but the halls were all locked up. I went upstairs and I bumped in Deacon Ray's wife who said, "Roger, you're a day late as always." As you know, I've made almost every one of them. I've done several over the years and I look forward to this.

Dan if I can ask you and your Dad if you would come up here. Selectman Coutu noted I'm not going to treat you any differently than I would any other Boy Scout who's achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Why don't you have a seat so that people can see who you are. First of all I want to congratulate you on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Teague I thank you for your consideration as a result of my having missed the induction. Dan as you've grown through the scouting process, you've become a man. You've achieved much. You've earned much. Your badges speak for all of the work and all of the dedication you've put into the scouting process. The one thing that I recognize above all else and what you did to achieve your status as an Eagle Scout is you're a tremendous fundraiser. Now we've got a lot of things we have to buy this year and we're looking for a fundraiser. As a matter of fact, we're going to be buying a new skid steer for about \$40,000. That's a lot of spaghetti Dan.

All of your recognitions, all of the achievements that you've accomplished to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout is going to carry with you for the rest of your life as you know. If you've attended other Eagle Scouts and you've heard me speak, I tell everyone the same thing that this is an asset for you for the rest of your life. I have a son-in-law who's an Eagle Scout. He relishes the idea that he's an Eagle Scout. An awful lot of people in industry and in the corporate world have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and they recognize that. It's a benefit to you. It's like being a Veteran in the military. It will carry you well for the rest of your life.

You took on a project that Selectman Coutu said Selectman Nadeau and I walking down by the gorilla cage and right around the time we were doing the 9-11 Memorial. We recognized that that area needed some work and we said someday we'll get to that. Ben and I had talked about seating that whole area or sodding it to bring out the quality and the beauty of that gorilla cage. You took it upon yourself to do the brick project. You made it very attractive. Not only did you make it attractive, you made some money in the process of doing it which you were kind enough to donate back to the Benson Park Committee for future endeavors of that nature to help beautify and brighten up the aesthetics of the park which is one of the gems that we have here in Hudson is our park. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I'm going to present you with this Certificate of Recognition. It's awarded to you Dan, Eagle Scout, Daniel Teague.

"The Town of Hudson, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen commends you on a remarkable achievement of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout through personal dedication and perseverance. You have distinguished yourself admirably and are a credit to your peers, to your family, to your organization, to your community, and to your country. Therefore, the Hudson Board of Selectmen proudly presents you with this Certificate of Recognition."

Selectman Coutu indicated we haven't raised a lot money because we don't have glass frames any more. We're going to have to raise some money and get some glass frames. I'll put it in this folder. We may be calling you. We may need this manila folder back. Things are tight in Hudson. Dan, I'm very, very proud of you.

Selectman Nadeau indicated that Dan's already stepped out but on behalf of the Benson Park Committee, I'd like to thank him for the generous donation that he gave the Town to use towards the landscaping at the park and for the beautiful job that he did at the gorilla house.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status of Skateboard Park

Chairman Maddox recognized Selectman Nadeau and Selectman Luszey.

Selectman Nadeau indicated I've only gotten probably 3 or 4 requests and all of them I've given them my information to get back to me and told them the deadline was January 1<sup>st</sup>. If there was something that they'd like to do - form a committee, I wanted to know before January 1<sup>st</sup> so that we could discuss at our first meeting in January what we were going to do with the skateboard park. Nobody had come forward to me stating their intentions of starting a committee, doing any fundraising, or any such thing for the skateboard park. At this time until I hear further, I'd like to keep the skateboard park closed permanently.

Selectman Luszey seconded that based on lack of response from folks. I had one person e-mail me twice. I basically responded in a similar fashion to Selectman Nadeau saying what we need is a group of volunteers, interested parties to pull together and bring a group together to come to this body, present a plan on how they would resurrect the skateboard park, and we would help them. I have not heard back from them. I guess at this point in time I'm in full agreement.

Selectman Coutu had a conversation - the Recreation Director is not here this evening as he's attending a New England Regional Recreation Director's meeting. I did speak to him last week and I spoke to him again today. As he came out of class, he returned my call. I've spoken to the Road Agent. The Recreation Committee would like to have an opportunity to look at the park, the site that exists presently today which was formally the skateboard park because I concur with Selectman Luszey and Selectman Nadeau that we should shutter it at this point. It's been problematic over the years and I fear that the cost of resurrecting that park is going to be prohibitive for any group to be able to accomplish it in less than 2 or 3 years. I would recommend that we allow the Recreation Committee, the Recreation Director, and the Road Agent to get together collectively or individually and come up with a plan. That property is Town property and we house a lot of our equipment for the Highway Department in the storage area back there. There could be some recreational value to the property. There's been a couple of things bandied about and I would respect the Road Agent and the Recreation Director's recommendation and I would ask that they come in between now and the spring. Whatever we can do, we can probably do something and erect something by the spring for recreational purposes. I would ask that the Board ask that they come back with a plan for us to review.

Selectman Nadeau indicated a couple of the comments that I've heard after saying that we wanted to shutter the skateboard park were horseshoe pits, bocce ball court, and a couple of other things other than the cat park. I figured I'd throw that out for you guys. I thought the horseshoe pits and the bocce court was something interesting and something to look at. I just threw that out there so that the Rec. Committee and the Highway Road Agent would see what they could come up with if that was one of the things they thought of.

Selectman Brucker said I too heard from - I just think it was one citizen who responded to me a couple of times - interested in having the skate park open and functioning but never and I advised that person that they'd have to put together a committee and never heard from that point. I concur with closing it as a skate park.

Chairman Maddox said why don't we at least give the Road Agent the authority to dispose of the equipment for scrap since we have not use in storing this stuff and that will be the first step in clearing the area and moving forward.

Selectman Coutu agreed.

Chairman Maddox indicated that it is the consensus of the Board to - I doubt Nashua wants it. They build theirs out of concrete.

Selectman Coutu said see what we can salvage if anything. If not, just get rid of it.

Chairman Maddox stated we could use that money towards whatever upgrade or whatever they're going to do at that location. At least that would be the first step to say it is finite.

B. Future use of Recreation Center - 2 Oakwood Street

Chairman Maddox indicated that this matter has asked to be deferred but after reading the report from the Recreation Director, I don't see the need to bring him in. It's utilized regularly. Do we need to bring him in to tell us that?

Selectman Coutu indicated I had asked that it be put on the agenda because of the potential sale. It wasn't just me. It was a consensus. I, too, we had this conversation today. I didn't realize the magnitude of the use and it's beneficial to our community all of these nonprofit agencies such as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and other organizations. The hall is used for registrations because in the winter time there's basketball tournaments going on and what not. The men's league uses the Community Center. The regular basketball teams use it and in the summer, it's utilized

100 percent for the rec. program. I think that it has a value at this time and I think we'd be short sighted if we decided to sell it. You're right. I would concur that on the basis of the report that was presented to us by the Recreation Committee; I would think that we should leave it alone for the time being.

Selectman Luszey didn't fully agree with that assessment and here's why. Right not today we have 2 facilities. We have this facility and then we have the Community Center. With the opening of the senior center and the majority of the events that occur at the Community Center that the seniors partake in will be done out of the new senior center. If I take a look at all of these items that are shown on this monthly breakdown, they're meetings. In the cable center is another meeting room. In the Rodger's Library, there's a meeting room. In the Hills Library, there is a meeting room. I'm wondering how many meeting rooms we need in order to facilitate the number of meetings that are held within the Town by all of these different organizations. I still think we need to have a thorough analysis on whether or not it is prudent for the taxpayers to continue to pay for that facility.

Chairman Maddox said I would concur if it wasn't for the fact that they utilized that building throughout the summer with the summer program. That is a space that they are using all the time is what I'm being told, right? Selectman Coutu said that is correct. Chairman Maddox said it's not just these meetings that it's utilized. It is also utilized throughout the 9 weeks of the summer program as a staging area, as another space for the rec. program.

The question Selectman Luszey asked is if why are we expanding to the Community Center. Selectman Coutu said we're not expanding. Selectman Luszey said we are. Chairman Maddox asked if we need a space this big, do we send people to the Verizon Center. A lot of these are 30 - 40 people. We're going to spend the money to heat or air conditioning the Community Center when we have a building that is much more practical in size for their use. Selectman Luszey's point is unless I missed it, we're moving the Recreation Department basically to the Community Center. That was the consensus.

Selectman Coutu indicated we're not moving them to the Community Center. We're going to make it a year round recreational facility. They presently occupy that facility from June through the end of August full time for the summer program. The way the Community Center is set up in the summer time and I think if not all of us at least 3 of us that I know of have been there to see the activities that go on in the summer time. There's no possibility that we can start dismantling every night so that we can have a 40 member group go in there and start having meetings during the summer. We're not certainly oblivious to the fact that we do have meeting halls. When you start looking down the list, the ASA softball, the Hudson Youth Baseball, the Bears Football, the Bears Cheerleaders, the Pond View Association, 3 Girl Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, Cub Pack troops, the Sno Men organization, the Beekeepers. You go on, and on, and on down this list. Even some of the schools - HO Smith, the HO Smith kindergarten, and then there are regular meetings and registrations that are ongoing throughout the year for all of our rec. programs. When you have a program in the summer time that serves 400 some odd people, there's 200 to 300 parents coming in to register for the summer program alone. That's not done in the summer time. It's done in the early spring so that we can get them in. The basketball is held in the fall. It goes on, and on, and on.

It also has been recognized, and Selectman Coutu said I could be corrected if I'm wrong, the Fire Chief is here. It's also can be used as an emergency evacuation building. We don't have cots or what not to have people sleep over night but it's a day facility that we could use. I think that the Recreation Committee thought this through very carefully. I told them that if the building was of no value and they felt it was not value and they couldn't quantify the value and the use that it would be best served if we sold the building. They said that they would review, put together an analysis of need, and based on what has been taking place over the past few years. I'm satisfied and I for one felt very strongly that it was a way for us to generate some revenue and they realized too that selling that building would also help going a long way with probably some money for fields that they want so badly. They recognize and identified the uses and the value of keeping that building. I'm going to concur with them.

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, that we continue to use the Oakwood recreational facility and keep it as is.*

Selectman Luszey didn't think we were having a discussion as to whether or not we were going to use the building. I thought the discussion was whether or not we would want an in depth analysis on whether or not it is of value. I see meetings and registrations. We've had a number of discussions at this particular Board during the budget process about registrations going to on line. Yes, 300 - 400 registrations and parents for each of these I understand that but if that's going on line, that goes away. Meetings - I don't know what it means to have a girls softball meetings. Is that 10 people? Is that 300 people? How many times a month? How many times a year? I do not get a sense of quantifiable need and value of what we're getting for the cost of maintaining that building. That's what I'm looking for is the analysis of that and not whether or not we're going to put it up for sale today.

Selectman Brucker said this isn't about anything quantifiable but it's the nature of some of these groups that go there that they're going to have supplies, and materials, and things that they will use from week to week. Maybe things that they need to hang on the wall, or keep on a shelf, and it works there at the Oakwood center. I don't see how it would work in the Community Center. It's not set up like that. If you have to clear it out for every group that comes in - for instance the tot playgroup. They must have things that they bring along with them or leave there. Certainly the scout

troops, maybe the theater group. I can see some of them needing to have a place for their materials that they wouldn't be able to leave behind in the Community Center.

Selectman Luszey said if we leave it behind at Oakwood, why couldn't we leave it behind at the Community Center? What's the difference? Selectman Brucker stated because things are moved and set up for basketball. Selectman Coutu stated there are a lot of other activities plus we have the rental of the hall. We have nonprofits that come in and use it. A lot of times we waive the fee. There's a lot of transient in and out of the building, comedy nights, there's a lot of things that go on at the Community Center. We have our own meetings not that we have that many but we have a few. There's only so much storage. They're cramped for storage in there now. We got that front office that the Seniors were using and then in the back we use it for storage of the tables and chairs and things. So there's limited storage space there now as it is.

Selectman Brucker indicated but also it's not a place where you would want to leave things permanently. Things hanging on the wall.

Chairman Maddox had two things. Isn't that what we're having at the Community Center the budget wrap up, the public hearing? Steve Malizia said the public hearing, the Deliberative Session, and obviously voting. Chairman Maddox said we're going to need a big room for that - the crowds that are going to come to that we'd need a big space. We certainly don't want to take away from that. If the maker and the seconder would agree to a friendly amendment to say that when the Rec. Department comes in for their annual workshop meeting with the Selectmen, that this will be an item on the agenda. I think that we could possibly expand some of the questions that Selectman Luszey has as far as usage and whatever but I don't see us putting this onto the next meeting. I think there's enough to hold over until the next workshop and see where it takes us. Selectman Coutu asked that it be put on the next meeting. Chairman Maddox said that's because that's what it says on here but I think..Selectman Coutu said I didn't make that motion. Chairman Maddox was saying can we just roll some of the questions that Selectman Luszey had into their workshop whenever that is.

Selectman Coutu recognized the validity of some of the things that Selectman Luszey mentioned especially if we're ever going to go to registration on line. It seems to me we talk about doing a lot of things on line and this just never gets done. Right now we don't have registration on line and we do have large numbers of people showing up. If you've ever been to a registration night, and I have been, it's tough some times to get in because the parents are bringing their kids; it's after school; it's night time and sometimes they're lined outside waiting to get in for registrations. The facility is ideal for that type of situation. When the day comes that we do go to register on line and the Recreation Department gets organized on a year round basis in that facility, neither the seniors nor the Recreation Department have enjoyed the quality of having the Community Center year round. Well now it's going to happen. The seniors are going to have their own facility and our Recreation Department will too. Maybe then an assessment can be made. We can get registrations on line and maybe we can facilitate some of these groups restructuring their meetings and meeting there. I agree and at that time, we can consider selling Oakwood. For the time being, I think it's better used by the community groups that are presenting using it in its present state and not risk alienating the good will that we've created with all of these groups right now when there is a genuine need. When the time comes that we can accommodate these groups in a different fashion, maybe at the Community Center, maybe at the Hills House, maybe at the Library, maybe the Recreation Department can start encouraging that and then maybe we will be in a position to sell the facility and I think your point is well taken. I agreed to a friendly amendment that we bring it back at the recreation workshop that's going to be held in the summer. If Mrs. Brucker will agree and we'll review the status at that time. Selectman Brucker agreed.

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, that we continue to use the Oakwood recreational facility and keep it as is and to discuss this further at the Recreation Department workshop this summer.*

Selectman Nadeau stated if that's going to be the case, then I'll go along with the motion. After going over this list of who uses the facilities and for what, HO Smith field day, they have a building across the street that's called the HO Smith School. HO Smith kindergarten graduation day, we have a gymnasium over at HO Smith. They can have their graduation over there. Emergency evacuation point - across the street. Then I look at the Bears. Their facility should be built within the next year or two. I can see us phasing that out. The Pond View Association - they have one annual meeting there or two. They can use either the police station's meeting room, or the one at the library. I see within the next year of phasing this building out. By the time we move the seniors out into their new building and we just heard tonight for the first time that we're now going to be using that building for 9 weeks for summer. We haven't used it in the past during the summer because the seniors have been there. All of a sudden this now just pops up onto the radar as we can fill in 9 weeks. Do they need the space? The might, they might not. I think it's something like we could do is look at it at one of the meetings and discuss it at the next workshop that we talk about the recreation committee. For now, I will vote on deferring this.

Selectman Brucker stated maybe some part of the Community Center can be modified in the future with some meeting rooms in a part of it instead of being this big cavernous...as long as there's enough room for basketball and the elections. Selectman Coutu indicated the elections are critical. We need all of that space. Steve Malizia

indicated that's the only polling place in town. That's it. Selectman Coutu indicated until we get a secondary polling place if we want to go that direction which would be very costly.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Luszey opposed.

C. Sale of Tax Deeded Property

Chairman Maddox recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia asked Attorney Hodes to take a look at Town Code, Chapter 104 the sale of real estate and to prepare language or at least put something in front of the Board that would allow the Board to amend that section of the Code to allow for the hiring of a licensed real estate professional to dispose of tax deeded property. Right now you have basically three choices. One of them is charitable transfer. I'm not aware we've ever done that. The other two are sealed bids or public auction. While those are great, you may not be getting the market coverage. You may not be getting the use of a wider MLS listing. The Board has talked about possibly selling some land in town in the next year. I think if you were to maybe allow for the option, it doesn't mean you have to do it, but if you were to allow for the option of using a real estate professional, you might get a bigger bang for your buck. All too often we put these things out. We advertise them and 2 people show up for an auction or 2 people - 1 person sends in a sealed bid. You can always refuse that but it's a lot of machination. I just think perhaps you can enhance the value of some of these properties. To change the Code, you'd need to have 2 public hearings. I had Attorney Hodes prepare some language that would change the Code. If the Board is interested, I'd recommend that you forward this to public hearings on February 11<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>. They have certain time specific dates. That will allow the public to come in and weigh in. If the public has concerns about that and it will certainly allow the Board to contemplate it more. I'm just trying to look for ways to possibly enhance when we do go to sell tax deeded property the ability to use like I said a licensed real estate professional.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to forward the proposed amendment to Town Code Chapter 104 allowing the use of licensed real estate professionals to sell tax deeded property to the required two (2) public hearings on February 11, 2014 and February 25, 2014.

Chairman Maddox asked does it cover how we'd handle the real estate fee. Steve Malizia said when you say "cover it", obviously you're hiring a licensed professional as part of that hiring process. It will cover it to do that. When you say "coverage", I would assume it would come out of the proceeds of the sale. Selectman Coutu indicated it's negotiable with each real estate agent. For example, Steve Malizia stated if you had a parcel you may solicit bids from local realtors who put it out for a bid for realtors and have them come in and give you their commission and their proposal to do it. You would be able to do that.

If you read the language, Selectman Luszey stated it says commercially reasonable rates.

Chairman Maddox indicated that would be the one question I would have at the public hearing if I was the public. I was just getting it out there. Again, Steve Malizia said it's a little different than what you've done in the past. Again, there's just been a public auction and sealed bid. That Ordinance I think was developed in 1949. Things have changed since then. Most people do things on line. If they're looking at property, we're already looking at. Let's maybe see what this does for us. Chairman Maddox said just give us another avenue. Steve Malizia indicated its more exposure.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Without objection, Chairman Maddox skipped over D. and E. and go to F to talk about the skid steer replacement. Hopefully that won't be too long.

F. Skid Steer Replacement

Chairman Maddox recognized Road Agent Kevin Burns.

Good evening. Kevin Burns said unfortunately the one and only skid steer that we have to do the sidewalks in Town; we do approximately 12 miles of sidewalk. We blew the engine this Saturday and cracked the block. We purchased that Bobcat in 1999 for \$22,000. I think we certainly got our money out of it. We need to replace it and in my opinion, we need to replace it very fast because I have no other piece to do the sidewalks. We're the beginning of January so we still have snow, and there will be school, and there will be angry people if I don't have the sidewalks cleared. I'm recommending that we replace the existing Bobcat with a new Bobcat, which would be a modified unit that will fit on our sidewalks. It's very difficult to get a high flow machine that does fit on our sidewalks. We need the machine to be no wider than 54 inches. I have a price of \$32,069 from Bobcat of New Hampshire located here in Hudson. That's in a nutshell. I'll answer any questions you have.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize the Road Agent to purchase an S570 T4 Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader from Bobcat of New Hampshire in an amount not to exceed \$32,069.

Chairman Maddox indicated I will say publicly what I asked the Road Agent for originally is this is a single source bid. It said in his Memo he couldn't rent one but he could certainly sell us one. The Road Agent was kind enough and I think, again, we need to at least hear what has to be done to this unit to get it to fit onto the sidewalks that Hudson has.

First of all, Kevin Burns said I could not find another manufacturer that makes a high flow machine that is narrow enough to fit on our sidewalks. Even at this, we have to modify the Bobcat to get it down to 54 inches. What we have to do is remove the wheels, cut them in half. We put them back on backwards. We install solid rubber tires so like forklift tires on this machine. This is about \$1,000 a tire which is why no one will modify a machine to rent it to us because they're not going to invest \$4,000 to rent us something for whenever it snows. Basically we either stud the tires or we chain them up. We also have to modify the snow blower on the front. Because of the width, we have to buy a low flow snow blower at 54 inches and then put a high flow motor on the low flow snow blower. So everything we do with this machine is a pain in the neck. A regular sidewalk piece of equipment that a lot of other communities use, for example, like an MT Trackless or a Bombadeer. They are in excess of \$100,000. I just can't see spending \$100 when you can get a piece of equipment to do it for \$32,000.

Chairman Maddox indicated the problem is our sidewalks are so narrow. Again, I just wanted people to understand the reason why we were going to this thing quickly and single source. Steve Malizia indicated we also have an investment in the equipment that attaches to it. We have \$30,000 of equipment that not just the winter but also summer time, correct? Mr. Burns said right. We have two snow blowers, power angle plow, Vplow, power angle broom, and buckets that already fit on this piece of equipment.

Selectman Coutu stated we were given as is regularly done relative to emergency situations, we're sent an e-mail and we're warned that we were going to get a hard copy tonight. I was reading it this afternoon and I was thinking to myself as a citizen and a taxpayer, my God another \$32,000 where are we going to get the money. Then as I read on and Mr. Burns clarified that he felt comfortable that he may have money in his budget. I don't hear the word "padding a budget". Where we're going to be fortunate is that Mr. Burns had a surplus of approximately \$13,600 in his paving account. I can't imagine trying to figure out how to spend \$13,600 worth of paving. What's that going to do about a foot? Then he anticipated and I would assume as a result of some increase in the recycling, an additional \$20,000 savings in our rubbish contract. When I saw in aggregate the money is there to cover the expense, I was relieved. I think that we are primed for a motion Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nadeau said I was on the Budget Committee in '99 when we discussed buying this first one. It was a hard sell then but after seeing what it's done and the more sidewalks that we've installed since '99, I think this is definitely a very good use of the money and I asked the same questions. What happens if we rebuild this motor? I talked to people in the industry and they said yup you can rebuild it between \$6,000 and \$8,000. Once you rebuild it, you might as well replace all the pumps because you'll be replacing those because your motor is now a 2014 with 1999 parts on it. So they said the best thing to do is just to buy a new one. Like you said the bucket will fit the new one and the other stuff will still fit this one. I think that it's definitely a worthwhile investment.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

D. Electricity Purchasing Aggregation

Chairman Maddox recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated this is the electricity purchasing aggregation effort that was spearheaded by NRPC. It's a consortium of a mixture of 13 or 14 towns and school districts in the NRPC area. We will be coming off a contract on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It will expire February 1<sup>st</sup>. We've had tests for the last 2 years we had a term and then we had a one year renewal. This is proposed to be a 9 month contract, which is probably advantageous for us because it will end in October and the schools will be most probably gone out to bid at the same time. I think this would be the best of both worlds for the Town of Hudson. We will be looking to purchase electricity, the supply portion, for I believe its \$.077 per kilowatt hour. PSNH I think if you read the newspapers just announced they're going to go to .0923. So this is about a 20 percent savings off of PSNH's rate. In the same article I think that was discussing the PSNH rate, there was also a sampling of other utilities that offering supply. They range from anywhere from .799 was probably the low end up to .0955. This number is lower than the numbers than the numbers that I saw represented in the article. It would seem to me to be a good deal for the 9 month period from February 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of October. The reason it's on tonight's agenda is the meeting to sign the contracts would be Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>. So what I'm looking for is the authority to go to NRPC and sign whatever necessary documents are there to effectuate this 9 month contract.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the 2014 Integrys contract documents for the nine (9) month electric supply contract for the Town of Hudson.

Chairman Maddox indicated it does say what it's going to save us probably \$25,000. Steve Malizia indicated when I looked at the new rate that PSNH was coming out with, it probably saved us closer to \$31,000 for the 9 month period. We use about 2.7 million kilowatt hours. So if you do the mathematics, it's about \$31,000.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu said reluctantly aye. I have .017 per kilowatt for two years. No offense, Mr. Malizia said you're an anomaly. I have no idea how you pulled that off. Selectman Coutu stated let me do the contract next year. I'd gladly do it. NRPC didn't do us any favors.

E. Fire Squad Vehicle

Chairman Maddox recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton.

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Chief Buxton apologized this didn't make it past further in the week. If I could start Mr. Chairman by thanking Selectman Nadeau for my squad vehicle this evening. I noticed that everybody is displaying at their nameplate. I'd like to take a minute and thank you for the invitation to come back and review the squad vehicle and the reallocation of staffing for the Robinson Road station this evening. My goal here tonight is to review the potential uses of the squad and also have a discussion about the decentralization of our response teams out of all 3 facilities on a 24 hour basis. The last time we met for a workshop was October 1<sup>st</sup> of this past year. It's been a busy fall and early winter to this point. I thought it was prudent to, again, supply with you the mission statement of the department.

(Chief Buxton) The mission of the Hudson Fire Department is to preserve life, property, and the environment from manmade natural disasters while providing emergency medical services, fire, rescue operations, communications, public education, and fire prevention. The department is made up of 3 distinct divisions - the Administration, the Operations Division, and the Support Services Divisions. The Administration is made up of the Fire Chief, the Executive Secretary, and the Administrative Aide who also services the other Divisions of the Department. Support Services is made up of 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 4 dispatchers, 5 members of the Inspectional Services Division/Fire Prevention team and they also take care of our facilities, communications, public education, fire investigation, and the Fire Alarm Division. The largest group of the Department is the Operations Division. That is made up of 5 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, and 35 firefighters. Twenty-six full time and 9 part time that are housed out of at this current moment 2 full time stations and the Robinson Road station which is staffed currently Tuesday through Friday 07:30 in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening.

Back in the FY14 budget, Chief Buxton said we came in and we reviewed the potential of looking at a different type of response plan with the utilization of a squad. I provided you this evening a snapshot of our emergency services review. This is strictly emergency work. This is not calls for service. This is fire, EMS, rescue, hazmat, technical rescue, and those types of incidents. The Hudson Fire Department has also contracted with the Town of Litchfield to provide EMS services to that community. That averages approximately 300 calls for service per year. We also dispatch for Litchfield on a yearly basis also.

The next chart that you will see will be a response per district. Chief Buxton indicated we are averaging out of the Robinson Road area at District 1 approximately 582 calls for emergency service per year out of District 2 which is the Central Station - Lenny Smith station area - 1,241. That's the 3 year average and out of the Burns Hill area, 811 emergency responses. Our 3 year average for Litchfield EMS is 299 incidents per year. The goal was to re-evaluate how we're deploying teams and to look to move the Litchfield contract to be serviced out of the Robinson Road area and to level out the service across town. We'll get into that a little bit later into the description.

Selectman Coutu asked to go over the numbers again for Robinson Road, District 1 calls per year. Chief Buxton stated the 3 year average is 582. District 2, Central - 1,241. District 4, Burns Hill - 811. Litchfield EMS is 299.

Chief Buxton said I also gave you a snapshot of our revenue which has been pretty consistent over the last few years. You'll see we also this year take in the inspectional services revenue that is referenced by the combination of the Building Department and the Fire Prevention Division underneath the Fire Department. For the FY14 budget, we administered a warrant article that was presented to the community and was one of I think 2 or 3 articles that passed at town election and was supported by the towns people for \$178,000 for the purchase of a fire squad vehicle. \$160,000 was to come from the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund and \$18,000 was to come from undesignated fund balance for 2012/2013.

What is a squad? Chief Buxton gave the Board a picture of a squad vehicle. It's similar to the one we were looking to purchase, similar to a couple of different trucks you have in front of you this evening. Why utilize a squad vehicle? Operational cost reduction, smaller, more efficient emergency response, smaller more efficient non-emergency

response, and the more efficient deployment of personnel. Types of equipment that we would put on this piece of apparatus would be auto extrication equipment, technical rescue equipment, brush fire equipment, hazardous materials equipment, and our rope rescue and confined space equipment. I gave you a quick snapshot of cost comparison between a fire pumper and a squad vehicle with just some basic prevent maintenance type work that is done, lube oil and filter, brake work, and those types of things.

Possible utilizations of the squad vehicle. Chief Buxton said emergency medical response, incident management, vehicle accidents, brush incidents, hazardous material incidents, technical rescue, non-emergency activities, and utilization. Utilizations would be outlined in department policy. So this isn't a vehicle that just you select when it goes out the door. There's a deployment policy that dictates when that vehicle will be put on the road and how it would respond.

In October of this last year, Chief Buxton gave the Board a list of challenges that I felt coming in the door that we had as a department. The bottom of the challenges in front of you, you'll see one bolded and was to identify a long term solution for our preventative maintenance for our fleet and increase our longevity. Our fire pumpers are purchased with an expected life span of 20 years. That 20 year period is we run 2 primary fire pumpers currently and they run on a consistent basis every day to help us handle that call volume that we reviewed a couple of minutes ago. In 2011, we began running the ambulance out of the Burns Hill Station. If you remember back to that slide, there was approximately 811 calls on a 3-year average that was handled out of that station. We also have seen a shift in the type of work that we're doing. Our structural fire incidents are down. Our emergency medical and service related calls are up. So that means that we should look at looking at a more cost effective unit to put on the road. The average cost of a fire pumper today is between \$390,000 to \$450,000 for a middle of the road fire pumper. We're not talking a Cadillac, we're talking a Chevy. That's the average cost for the truck coming in today. The fire squad vehicle is looking at \$178,000. We're looking at rotating the body for 2 chassis at a 5 year period and then purchasing a complete vehicle the third chassis out. We feel that this is a move to help us solidify the life span of our front line large equipment fleet.

Chief Buxton stated we also said that we wanted to become cost effective and provide cost effective services to the citizens. We feel that this move will save us in the preventive maintenance of our fleet and in the long term will make us more efficient for the public. We'll put smaller teams on the street and allow them to do the different types of work that we are doing today for the services that the Town is requiring of us.

Hudson Fire Department emergency services deployment. Chief Buxton said the goal is to provide a balanced approach to services across the town. Accomplish this through the utilization of decentralized emergency response teams, create operational policies. They'll work to meet the demands of both emergency and non-emergency work and creation of operational policies to ensure the deficient deployment of both equipment and personnel. Our current deployment is a centralized out of two facilities. We run 5 full time members out of the central station here on Library Street and we run 3 members out of the Burns Hill Fire Station. The Robinson Road station is staffed Tuesday through Friday by 2 members and then backed up in the evening hours by the Call Department. Currently we have come to realize that our Call Department has 2 members that live within the district. So what have we seen over the years? We've seen an increase in response times and an increase in liability. National Standards are looking at us to respond to an incident within the 4 to 8 minute mark. In the certain areas of District 1, we have response times upwards of 15 minutes. So we are way off the balance in providing a level playing field for emergency response throughout town. Decentralization of our response teams will allow more efficient delivery of emergency services across town. Equipment will be covered by smaller teams. The squad will allow better coverage of non-emergency incidents and medical response. It will create a neighborhood fire station feel. You will be within 2 ½ to 3 miles there will be a fire station within your district.

(Chief Buxton) Back in the early '70s when Lenny Smith started building fire stations in this town, he took out the map and he made big circles and wanted everybody to live within 3 miles of their fire station. That holds true even today as you start looking at this. Some of the facilities are staffed and some of the facilities are not. We are looking to open our third station full time and allow everybody to have access to a full time station within that 3 to 3 ½ mile period.

Deployment of new response models. How do we deploy? Chief Buxton indicated we will deploy utilization in our policies and allowing our command staff to make the appropriate decisions based on guidelines that the Administration sets in play. There are 3 big pieces of data that really drive our benchmarks and affect our industry standards. One is call processing time which is 100 percent within our control. That is the amount of time it takes an operator to process a phone call that comes in for an emergency. They're looking at us to be able to process our dispatchers to be able to process a call and get an emergency out with 60 seconds 90 percent of the time. We hit that benchmark today.

The next piece is turnout time. How long it takes for a call to get processed and for us to get on the road. The Fire Department currently has a pre-alerting policy and a pre-alerting system within the station so when the 911 phone rings, the dispatcher can initiate the alerting of the full time emergency staff and get them prepared to go on an emergency call. The industry standard is 60 seconds to get on the road for an emergency medical call 90 percent of

the time and 80 seconds for a fire call. The differential between that would be allotting the time for the force to get dressed in their protective clothing and to get on the truck and get out the door. An EMS call they are throwing on a normal jacket and getting in the truck and going. We hit those bench marks today.

Where do we fall short? Chief Buxton indicated we fall short in the amount of time it takes us to travel from point A to point B. If you think about town and you think about the road infrastructure, we have some main thoroughfares but crossing in between them are some narrow roads. We talked about our sidewalk infrastructure a couple of minutes ago. We have some very narrow roadways and up over on curves and hills and those types of things would slow response down. At this point Mr. Chairman, I would open it up to questions regarding how we would deploy. I know one of the questions that was kind of discussed was what exactly would be at each facility and how would that work? The goal would be to have a fire pumper at each of the outlying facilities with an ambulance. Each station would have some sort of support vehicle. Out of the Burns Hill Station, I'm envisioning a brush truck coming out of that station and either a utility vehicle or a brush truck coming out of the Robinson Road station. I think that we need to do that because we would reallocate where the boat is stored on a permanent basis to probably come out of the Robinson Road Station with the Rec. Department staffing and working out of the Robinson Pond Rec. area during the summer months.

(Chief Buxton) The larger boat that we have works very efficiently getting in and out of the pond. The smaller boat that we keep at Central Station is easily deployed over the embankment believe it or not to get into the river and that piece of equipment was actually bought so that we could do that. Carry it down the embankment because we don't have access to a boat ramp currently along the Merrimack River. It is a long drive over to Greeley Park to come in the back side to get to the boat ramp in Nashua to get on the Merrimack River for us. So we needed to have something we could rapidly deploy over the embankment at Merrill Park or down in the south end and that's where the rubberized boat came into. The squad would respond out of Central Station and that would be staffed in several different formulas that would work through deployment whether it was an emergency medical response and we needed to get a paramedic on the road; whether we needed to get a supervisor on the road, or how we needed to deploy. It's a very flexible plan but is a plan that we would give decision making capabilities to our command staff and give them guidelines to make sure we're deploying in an appropriate manner. I guess I would open it up to any additional questions that you may have.

Selectman Coutu said in the response time Chief you said that District 1, which is Robinson Road, the response time is up to 15 minutes. Chief Buxton indicated that would be correct. Selectman Coutu said when Lenny Smith was drawing the circles, and we've all been through the circle format in terms of talking about building a new fire station, where would we put it to be more centralized. What is it about the Robinson Road Fire Station when it's manned that a response time should take more than 50 minutes? Is that if they're responding to the south end of town? Chief Buxton said no. If the station is unstaffed so that the crews responding from either Central Station or from Burns Hill to get to District 1 when the station is unstaffed. Off hours non full time staff...Selectman Coutu said but their compliant and meet the same criteria as all the other stations when they're being manned. That was a misunderstanding that I had. You talked about District 1, the coverage was 8 to 15 minutes response time when it is not manned should be a qualifier. Chief Buxton indicated when we are open for business, we're within 6 minutes within the district.

Chairman Maddox said the responses in District 1 include the 2 medical facilities that are presently on Robinson and 102. You're responding they're probably twice a week. Selectman Nadeau indicated twice a day. Chief Buxton told the Board that the responses, and I didn't run that particular site I can get that information and supply it to the Board, but we probably run 6 to 10 times per week to the medical facilities on Derry Road and Robinson Road. The bulk of the time we're responding to 300 Derry because they have that immediate care facility there versus the St. Joe's facility is more of a scheduled doctor's visit type scenario. Chairman Maddox stated you're willing to say that 250 of the 562 calls are to that one facility. Chief Buxton stated when you look at our EMS response, that is coming out of District 2 at this point. That is not extrapolated into the District 1 response at this point.

Chairman Maddox said here's my problem Chief. You're going to put a third of your resources, 3 men, 3 people, into a station that has 20 percent of the call volume which in my mind says you're going to be short at the station that does most of the response, i.e. the Lenny Smith Central Station that has 5 vehicles and 3 people to operate it. That has been my concern from the get go. I hear when you respond with the ambulance from Burns Hill to that medical center, the engine from Central Station arrives within seconds in front of or behind their responding ambulance. The times between them are not dramatic. Again I only hear what I hear but I'm trying to get to the point of we're going to allocate manpower from this station that is going to utilize at a lot less than the other two stations and what are you going to do with all this equipment when you got only 3 people to operate it.

Chief Buxton indicated when we look at response models, when we look at the service demand that's on the facility - and I look at Central Station, we run a very centralized group so a lot of our equipment comes out of that one facility. I know it is a criticism of the Fire Department is how fast we call for coverage at Central Fire Station. When the nuts and bolts of our equipment is allocated within that facility, we need to keep that staffed pretty much consistently. So if an ambulance goes out of that building and then the engine is deployed either with that ambulance and they're going to be tied up for more than 6 minutes, we call for coverage. When we call for that coverage, we call for that coverage

based on the fact that the response time from the Burns Hill Station is magnified because you're now coming out onto Lowell Road and going out Derry Road to get up to District 1 or you're going the back way over Kimball Hill. Our response time becomes longer than 15 minutes. When we talk about that average to get to the north end of town, we're talking about coming out of Central Fire Station. When that station becomes uncovered, we have to click in and we have to call for coverage. When we go to the smaller teams, that allows us to diversify the equipment that we're putting out in the street and allows us to balance that out so we're not calling for coverage consistently. The coverage policy changes. The coverage policy and coverage theory changes because we have the ability to say that the Burns Hill Station as 3 members, the Robinson Road Station has 3 members. When we take the 3 members away from the Central Fire Station, it's still now only 7 minutes instead of 6 minutes to get to a call at Central district. They're coming for either direction instead of 15 or longer minutes coming from the south end of town to get to the north end of town. So we're deploying differently. It is a much different model than what we have but we feel it is something that is efficient and we feel it is something that we'll see some benefit from.

Just a point of clarity. Selectman Luszey was not sure what debate we're having here. I look at the agenda and we're talking about a fire squad vehicle and I thought tonight's discussion was going to be around whether or not we're going to purchase a squad vehicle. The conversation I'm hearing is whether or not we're going to man the Robinson Road facility 7/24 which I believe this Board agreed to - and help me remember what meeting that was. Mr. Malizia stated October/November. Selectman Luszey asked help me understand what conversation we're having. To me, they're independent. They're not one in the same.

From Chairman Maddox's point of view, are we buying a vehicle that with the new model may not be a worthwhile investment for the Town of Hudson. When you're going to have this model, which again the Fire Chief is proposing and if that's the way we're going to go, fine but if we're not going to be able to utilize this \$180,000 vehicle because of the new model, why spend the money. I think they're linked but again.

Selectman Brucker said when I heard about the staffing at Robinson Road, I was more concerned with the hours that they were there. They've been staffed during the daytime hours and not in the evening or on the weekend when most people are around. I think probably if you're looking at some of the responses that we get from Robinson Road if they looked low, it's because of when the firefighters are there. Most people are at work during the day. Not that many people are at home and requiring a call. I don't know if that explains any of it.

Chief Buxton thought when Jim Michaud and I actually had a very in depth statistical conversation regarding units and how many units were within the fire districts. He defines units by not the number of people that live within the houses but you can classify them everything gets a number in his world of assessing. We had just north of 2,000 units within District 1. When you start and you look at and you say I think there was 700 of those units were commercial properties. That means that you're 100 percent correct that over half of our population within that district go to work during the day or go to school during the day. We see a higher service demand from 300 Derry Road, and the health care facilities, and Robinson Pond during the summer time because we have more activity within the district but it is also the support that we give across town because the call volume is there. You're 100 percent correct Selectman Brucker that our district populations is down Tuesday through Friday during the hours but those are the hours of operation that were negotiated for operation with the labor group and those were agreed upon with this Board when we opened the station in 2007. Certainly that comes back up at 5:00 o'clock in the evening. So we go down that path.

Selectman Nadeau said I was on the same idea as Selectman Luszey that we were going to be discussing the purchasing of a squad vehicle but with this presentation that I just heard, it actually made the squad vehicle a little bit more usable out of Central seeing that you're going to have two ambulances in your outlying areas and if you have a motor vehicle accident, why send the \$396,000 when you can send the \$180,000 truck and then you look at the maintenance and it shows you the differences in what a brake job is, oil filter, alternators, and things like that. When you start putting more wear and tear on the little vehicle, I think it's a real wise decision to put the squad vehicle at Central and if you have a medical call and it only requires 2 people for the medical call, the squad sits here at Central manned. If there's a reason to send the squad out because of a medical call such as a heart attack where you need more manpower, you're sending a lower cost vehicle but you're getting the same manpower there. I think it's definitely a good deployment of our resources by the way the Chief has described how he's going to staff the stations.

Selectman Coutu said I'm going to be brief because Selectman Nadeau pretty much covered quite a bit of what I was going to say. To the average citizen, a minute is an hour when you're waiting for fire or ambulance. I remember when I had a fire in my home, I thought they were never going to get there and I heard that the response time was about 4 minutes and 12 seconds. It seemed like 4 hours. I appreciate that. I also appreciate - I thanked Selectman Luszey for bringing it up because I was getting a little confused. After you and I having conversations, you and I have had extensive conversation, as you will attest, I asked you an awful lot of questions to prepare for this evening. I, too, was opining the same thing. I thought we were talking the squad vehicle and I thought this was going to be something else. Selectman Nadeau highlighted or certainly focused on the reasoning for making this kind of presentation. I think that in light of some of the questions I had that the Fire Chief realized that there was going to need to be some justification for what he was doing. I don't profess to be an expert and I haven't heard anybody at this table profess to be an expert. You are the expert.

Selectman Coutu remembered when I sat here and the decision was to be made who are we or what are we going to do to get a new Fire Chief when Chief Murray decided to retire and move on elsewhere. There was no doubt on any one of our minds who was the prime candidate for that job and there was no need to do a search because we had a quality person in Rob Buxton. I voted for Rob Buxton without reservation. I think he knew a long time ago that he was the person I was certainly eyeing to replace Chief Murray if the opportunity every availed itself. I trust that he knows what he's doing. I believe that he realizes that the ball is in his court. It's his to continue keeping this department. One of the greatest fire departments in the State of New Hampshire or it's his to lose. I trust and know Rob Buxton well enough to know that he's going to make this department shine and in turn make our jobs a lot easier. I think that he's made some recommendations this evening and I'm going to wholeheartedly support all of those recommendations including purchase of the fire squad vehicle. I think it might come as a surprise to both Selectman Nadeau and Selectman Brucker who couldn't understand my opposition to opening up Robinson Road on a 24 hour basis. I understand how you would feel if we decided to just shutter the place. If they were going to do it to Burns Hill, Selectman Luszey and I would be up jumping and screaming. I appreciate the fact that we have the luxury of 3 fire stations. Now if we could have them operational 24 hours a day 7 days a week, it would lessen the burden. I've received some assurances but we cannot predict that we don't expect an increase in overtime at all and that the policy that you're going to establish with the use of these vehicles satisfied one of my concerns and one that you had Mr. Chairman relative to the new squad car. I think I'll take that out. He is setting a policy in place that will dictate when and how that vehicle is going to be used because one of the purposes as he outlined here this evening was that this was going to save on the wear and tear of other vehicles and give us a greater life. I think he's thought through the plan very, very carefully. I'm very impressed. I was very impressed with his answers to all of the questions I had. They were direct, succinct, and I was very, very satisfied. I will be supporting the plan as well as the purchase of the fire squad. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Luszey indicated that both Selectman Nadeau and Selectman Coutu said just about everything that needed to be said. The only thing I was going to bring to your attention is if you take a look at I believe its page 5, the response by district, if we're talking about why we are going to man Robinson 7/24 if you add Litchfield on top in District 1, it is almost equal to that of District 4. So we are moving equipment in and out of there just as frequently as we are at Burns Hill.

On page 14 to your concern Mr. Chairman about whether or not he's going to roll a tanker or the squad vehicle, Selectman Luszey said the last bullet addresses that directly. Based on the approval of getting the squad vehicle and going to a decentralized deployment of equipment and personnel, the last thing on this page he talks about is the creation of operational policies to ensure the efficient deployment of both equipment and personnel. Until we know that we are actually going to go and do this, I'm not sure how you would ask him to go and create all of these policies because it would be a waste of time. Given that we approved this purchase tonight, I am assured that he will create such policies that do in fact create the ability for us to ensure that the equipment is used most effectively. With that, I will be supporting the purchase.

Chairman Maddox indicated that there is no motion here. We're just having discussion about the fire squad vehicle. I

Selectman Nadeau said now we asked him about getting a few answers and I didn't ask him prior to the meeting because I forgot. Did we find out about the chassis if we can still get the 2013? Chief Buxton said the answer was no. I had put that in an e-mail to the Board a couple of weeks back that if we were in the middle of January, that that would not be possible. We're at a date with coming in for a recommendation of purchasing the squad. A few weeks back, which lead to this presentation this evening, I came in and made a recommendation to the Board to go with KME Fire Apparatus. The Board had asked me to look at a couple of questions and look at the different vendors specific to the chassis. It came back that it was more reasonable for us to rebid the project. The project is out currently. The bids will close on January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was my intention as I put in writing to you folks that I will be back here February 11<sup>th</sup> with a recommendation as to who is to receive that bid. We've sent out to a minimum of 6 vendors at this point in time. I know that I received a new vendor phone call this afternoon regarding the spec. So we're starting to pick up some of those types of companies that we didn't see before. The competitive process certainly is out there alive and well. Hopefully that will drive down any added costs that we see from a chassis change to a 15, which appears that that may happen. I'm comfortable with that.

Selectman Brucker asked we don't end up with extra trucks anywhere do we? Chief Buxton said no. One of the things that we did when we rebid the project was work the trade in of the rescue truck into the project. That was missed on the first RFP. So that will be done with this project.

Chairman Maddox stated to Chief Buxton you said repeatedly that trying to get 20 years out of a front line truck, in the 10 years that I've been a selectman, that hasn't happened. You're expecting with the decentralization that that will be a...Chief Buxton indicated we've set a 20 year life span on a piece of fire apparatus whether it's been a ladder truck or a pump. That's been the history of this organization for several trucks now. The 2 original custom KMEs were 20 years plus before they were replaced. Chief Carpentino replaced an American Lafrance was 30 years plus and a truck out of the Robinson Road station that was probably pushing 30 years at that point in time and went with a couple of commercial type vehicles. Those vehicles continue to service while those were slated at a 15 year life span

because they were lighter chassis. Our custom fire pumps are set on a 20 year life span. That is with 20 full years - 15 front line, 5 back and out the door.

Chairman Maddox stated then we'll see you on the 11<sup>th</sup>. I think that this was the discussion that we needed to have as far as how it's going to proceed. I will say publicly that I am still concerned about buying a truck that will not get utilized to the extent that it would have with the centralized version. I like Selectman Coutu know that we hired a man that can hopefully explain all of that to his simple sole liaison to where I am comfortable writing saying yes to a vehicle that I am truly concerned that it's just going to sit there because I got to tell you if I had my druthers and I'm the Captain at that station, I'm taking the big truck because I don't know what I'm going to get into and I have all my personnel in it. You have time. We have some leeway to learn. Let's move forward. We'll see you on the 11<sup>th</sup> to see where the truck goes.

6. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Luszey - Last night we had the Town wrap up on the budget. All of the articles passed. I did not take names but the majority of them pass unanimously. The general fund passed on a 7-2. The capital reserve fund for the repairs for the town and building was 8-1. Recreation capital reserve fund was at 6-3. The rest were unanimous and so were all the contracts which is a big deal. Hopefully the voters will recognize the work that went into negotiating those contracts and the long-term savings that the concessions that we got from the unions specifically related to the insurance plans that we now have is significant.

Selectman Luszey met with Bernie Manor today and got status on where the senior center is. Hopefully by the end of this week they'll actually be painting the walls on the interior. The sheet rock is hung. They were sanding it today. Plumbing and electrical is pretty much in the walls and they're starting to tie things out. It is still on target to be opening up early to mid March.

Just for clarification, Chairman Maddox stated the outbuilding, the garage, the carriage house came back at a higher quote than. That is on hold. That is going to be put off. We rebid it and it was \$10,000 more than you authorized. Selectman Luszey said it is an unfortunate thing. Just about all of the change orders that we've asked has resulted in a higher price and not a lower price on anything. I'm very disappointed.

Selectman Brucker - I, too, was very pleased with how things went with the Budget Committee. I think everybody has worked very hard on their part for the town operating budget for the contracts and certainly the Budget Committee scrutinized pretty much everything and I was glad to see that they came through and recommended everything. So it was very pleasing.

Selectman Nadeau - A couple of things. I just wanted to thank everybody who helped us out at Christmas time and I was just upstairs tonight. There's a basket out in the hallway in front of Town Clerk's office which is filled with food. I'd like to thank the Hudson Fire Department, the Police Department, the Highway Department, and all of the Town employees that helped out this year at Christmas. I'd also like to thank the Highway Department on behalf of a few residents that have called today on their great job that they've done taking care of the roads during these big storms.

Selectman Coutu - Speaking of the Budget Committee last night, I was surprised but I have to say that I have to applaud Leo Bernard for stepping forward for his energy in Recycling Committee and making a pitch to get his money back and he was very successful. I've got to compliment him for doing that. I wanted to ask Mr. Chairman at one time we had recycling signs up here and I understand that you asked that they be removed. Would it be possible to have at least one of them put back up? Chairman Maddox stated I asked him to relocate them to other locations. People that have seen us, have seen us. I thought we could put them at voting and different other events. Selectman Coutu said but when they're not there during the winter months, they were under the opinion you didn't want them in the room. Chairman Maddox said I asked Mr. Bernard to relocate them to another location. Everybody that's seen us has seen don't pollute or whatever it was and I was hoping we could use them like at Election Day and some other locations. Selectman Coutu indicated they had been and they were using them at the school when they had the contest for the kids that have them up there. They've also have others besides that that they use. Chairman Maddox thought maybe they can cycle them through.

Selectman Coutu wanted to remind everybody that the final lacrosse registrations are Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rec. Center. The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Hudson Recreational Basketball Tournament is January 18, 19, and 20. There will be 10 Hudson travel teams and 40 teams from surrounding towns are currently entered. That's revenue generation. Comedy night. The next comedy night is Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Community Center. The tickets are on sale at the Recreation center and the Town Clerk's office. People are asked to come in around 7:30 p.m. The comedians go on around 9. So you have about an hour and a half. You bring your own food and have a good time. I expect that my family and I will be there at this one. We're looking forward to a great night and I hope to see a lot of people from the community. It's a fundraiser for various recreational activities in town.

Something that came to Selectman Coutu's attention Mr. Chairman that I think that I would like to see if we could get a consensus from the Board of Selectmen to ask the Town Administrator to do something. The City of Lowell entered

into a 20 year contract to convert their landfill into solar energy producing facility and they have thousands of solar energy panels out there. They entered into a 20 year contract. The name of the company is Ameresco. There's no upfront costs whatever to install the panels. The City of Lowell based on the size of that particular facility is expecting to save \$1.5 to \$2.5 million a year over the next 20 years in their municipal electrical use. We have an unused landfill. I wonder if we might not want to think about exploring something like that. Having them come in, look at the size of the facility. We have two landfills you are correct Selectman Nadeau. We might want to take a look at them. They retrofit all of the buildings at no cost. There's absolutely no cost because not only are the generating electricity for the municipality, they're generating excess electricity for other uses that they can sell as well and the land, of course, is nothing to them to put - we're talking acres over there but the Town of Hudson we don't have the number of municipal buildings they have in Lowell. If we could research that and see if the Town of Hudson can take advantage of it, Ameresco.

Chairman Maddox thought that's where I think the action item...Selectman Luszey thought that's something for the energy/recycling...Selectman Coutu said that's too much of a magnitude. We're using municipal land and municipal building conversions. I think it's something we need to...Chairman Maddox thought they could certainly assist. I think that they could help us. Selectman Coutu said it's something we can look into and then we could use somebody like a Linda Kipnes as a liaison to work and then converse back and forth with the Town Administrator with anything they find. I'm requesting that we put it on an action item if there is a consensus to do that. I think it's worth looking into. Chairman Maddox couldn't see any harm in looking. At the very least, find out.

Selectman Luszey said just the approach though. We pay our employees a lot of money to do what is really priority work. This project here, and I'm not saying it's not important, but this is the exact type of work that I think the Energy/Recycling Committee can go off and research because that's really what this is. This is a research project to see 1) if the scope of what we have versus what Lowell has would be even interested to Ameresco and whether or not they would even come in and look at to do what we want to do. Does our landfill provide the surface area required to do what they need to do and all that. I think that would be a great project for that team to go and scope out and come back with yes that is something that we should pursue versus putting paid resources on it to go do.

Selectman Coutu asked what is the wish of the Board Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Maddox thought that the Town Administrator - this, again, is town land and I think that the scope is larger than volunteers at night are going to be able to pull off. I'm sure they can assist. They can do some of it but I think this is a daytime job for the most part but that's my thought.

Selectman Nadeau was thinking that the Town Administrator just calls them up and see if they're even interested and what they need for space. I don't think it's going to take up that much of his time to talk to him.

Selectman Brucker was interested in pursuing the whole idea. I guess you really do need one contact person. I think it would be worthwhile for the Town Administrator to do it.

Selectman Coutu said I'm sick and tired of picking up the Nashua Telegraph and reading that the City of Nashua is blaming the Town of Hudson for creating the traffic problem going across this bridge in the morning. It's a two way street Mr. Chairman. It goes to Nashua and it comes from Nashua. For them to say that we've done little or nothing with our traffic controls on this end of the side that's creating the problems on the other end of the side. I point the finger at one. That one, that Mr. One, is NRPC. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission is well aware of the traffic situations and traffic problems we have in Nashua and that we have here in Hudson. According to their brag sheet, which is a lot of BS, they've done all of these projects to rectify the traffic problems. Well apparently they haven't. They certainly haven't handled the one that Nashua thinks is most critical to them. So what are they going to do to solve the problem, they're going to put in a roundabout, which is going to create an absolute nightmare. Why? There's going to be one accident after another over there blocking everything east and west. I am just sick and tired of Nashua putting the blame on us when the blame really is if there's any blame to spread around, it's mostly NRPC for not doing the job that they claim they're doing and certainly not Hudson or Nashua's fault. Our citizens have a right to travel through Nashua if they have to go to a job in the morning and I'm sure that Nashua is not going to complain if Hudson residents are going to Nashua to spend some money and do some shopping. If we have a traffic problem, it's as a result of narrow streets in Nashua, the congestion coming off the bridge going right and left on Canal Street and East Hollis Street. I'm getting sick and tired of Hudson getting all the blame when we're not really to blame. NRPC will be something I will hold open for Deliberative Session. I hear that some people were impressed with their report. It's the same report I read this summer. Its camouflaged BS. They haven't done anything for us and it's not worth \$19,000 but that's for another day.

The last thing Selectman Coutu has is directed obviously to the Board and certainly to the Town Administrator. I have some serious concerns about Community Development, Code Enforcement agent in that department. I've had a couple of people come to me and wanting to know what he does and seriously, I'm beginning to question. Since the reorganization, I want to know what that person in that position does and if they're actually going out and doing code enforcement. I ride up and down the streets and see sign violations every day. I never read any action reports. I've had people tell me they've filed complaints and nothing has ever been done about it. I just think there needs to be

some accountability for that position and wanting to know exactly what are the daily duties of that person and what kind of reporting mechanism there is. From what I can see with the reorganizational structure, and I have a limited view. I am just one selectman. My limited view is that a lot of the work was taken away from him. We have an agency handling it all and all he does is prepare for the ZBA meetings which is about 2 hours a week worth of work. If that's the case, what does he do for the other 38 hours? I would like to know - I'm sure he does something. I'm not saying he doesn't work. I just as a selectman hearing people complain, I want to know exactly what it is that he does. If you could provide us with some sort of a report, it would certainly be appreciated. If the Board doesn't want to, then that's fine with me too. I'll figure it out on my own. I would like to have a consensus of support to provide some sort of document. If we have to bring him in and talk to him, then maybe that's the avenue. I don't know.

Selectman Brucker indicated I am the liaison. I brought this to the department head and he was going to pursue looking into the job requirements and all of that. I just think that if you're saying that there were things that you know about that people you know know about - violations and they haven't been followed up on, I think we need to know about those specifically. Maybe they were but the outcome wasn't what your friend or acquaintance wanted. Selectman Coutu noted more than one person. More than one violation and flagrant violations. Flagrant to the naked eye. You've seen them. I've seen them and I'm sure other members of the Board have seen them. They're all over town. They're not difficult to see. You see it. You know what the code is and that's a direct violation of the code. Nothing is being done.

Chairman Maddox indicated that they're not showing up on the report that we do. We do get a report. That has not changed much. Selectman Coutu didn't know who that report pertains to. Is that the Inspectional Services Division report. What does the...Selectman Brucker said no it's Code Enforcement. Selectman Coutu stated Bill sent a letter, another letter was sent, case closed. What's the physical work involved in that job? That's what I want to know. Selectman Brucker said sometimes it requires going out, calling on people. Selectman Coutu agreed. It's a 40 hour a week job. I just want to know we're getting our money's worth. I didn't know that you had requested from the head of Community Development. I'll wait for that report. Chairman Maddox stated that we can see that by the second meeting in February. Selectman Brucker indicated I'll request it for then. Selectman Luszey asked is that a request or is that a due date. Chairman Maddox thought that's a due date at this point. You've asked for it previously. I think it's now time to put a hard date on it. Consensus that's where we want to go. Okay.

Selectman Coutu wanted to wish everyone a very happy New Year since this is our first meeting in the New Year. Things have not been going well for me lately but I'll stay it's going to be the best year ever.

Selectman Nadeau said one thing I did forget to mention is the passing of Arthur Provencher who was the last owner of (Benson Park) Playworld when it finally closed. They'll be having a service coming up in January. I believe it's the 18<sup>th</sup> but I'm not 100 percent sure on that. It was in the Nashua Telegraph and it was in the Hudson/Litchfield News with the obituary.

Selectman Luszey indicated there was one item that I had on my notes and I missed. It has to deal with Selectman Nadeau. During the Christmas holidays, he knows that I'm active in community outreach programs and things like that. He happened to run across a very significant donation of bread that he called and asked if I could use 200 loaves of bread. Sadly to say, we had no problem finding a home for that food. I do want to thank Selectman Nadeau and St. Vincent de Paul.

Selectman Maddox - I have a couple of things. Last night I went to the Budget meeting as well. They have a job to do as we do. We are to prepare a budget and their job is to scrutinize it. I know there was an opinion that our department heads and just staff in general get treated like piñatas. That is the system of government we have. We ask questions. That elected Board has a responsibility to make sure that we are not spending money in a manner in which the general taxpayers would be upset about. They have a duty to ask the questions. I was impressed at the end when they saw the results of what we had done and the contracts on our budget that it was pretty much where it started. Again, that is the system. If you want cumbaya, don't get involved in the Budget Committee. They have a responsibility to ask those questions to make our department heads answer the tough questions of why they're spending the money they're spending. Again, I applaud them for doing their job and I'm impressed with our department heads in giving them the answers that, again, brought it to where the town budget was within a couple of thousand dollars when you add it all up of where we started from. Kudos to people here, our department heads, and to those people at the Budget Committee. Selectman Coutu added who are serving unpaid.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to: RSA 91-A:3 If (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted, carried 5-0.

Chairman Maddox stated that Nonpublic Session is being entered into at 8:45 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room. Open session is being entered at 9:01 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to promote Firefighter Sean Mamone to the position of Lieutenant, a non-exempt position, in accordance with the IAFF Local 3154 Contract, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$20.95, effective January 12, 2014, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

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Nancy Brucker, Selectman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Benjamin Nadeau, Selectman

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Ted Luszey, Selectman